

Strategic Relocation and Medical Services

By Maj. Jeff Mosso
Third Army Surgeon's Office

With the future relocation of Third Army/U.S. Army Central to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., right around the corner, many questions have arisen across every spectrum imaginable to include healthcare services. Many of our servicemembers, Family members and DA civilians are, more than likely, wondering where they will go to receive healthcare service once they arrive at Shaw AFB.

My name is Maj. Jeff Mosso, assigned to the Third Army Surgeon's office. I have been charged with the oversight of and transition assistance for healthcare services as they are shifted from Fort McPherson to Shaw Air Force Base in support of our servicemembers and their Families. Col. Jonathan Fruendt, Third Army's command surgeon, wholeheartedly understands the importance as well as the significance of quality health care for our servicemembers and their Family members. Col. Fruendt is committed to ensuring that the transition from McPherson to Shaw is a smooth and seamless process.

Third Army, in coordination with the U.S. Army Medical Command, Dental Command and Veterinarian Command, is putting forth unwavering efforts to make certain that the appropriate agreements, procedures and processes are in place at Shaw prior to the arrival of our servicemembers and their Families.

Discussions between the various agencies involved are on-going but for the most part the transition of the administrative and clinical services will be transparent to almost all of us.

As servicemembers and their Families relocate to Shaw, healthcare services will fundamentally remain unchanged from what they have been accustomed to. All of our servicemembers and their dependents will continue to receive world class healthcare upon arrival to Shaw. Servicemembers and eligible dependents can expect to receive healthcare services through the 20th Medical Group and local TRICARE network providers that are equivalent to what is currently being received through the Joel Lawrence Clinic at Fort McPherson and outsourced TRICARE network providers in the Atlanta Metro Area.

The 20th Medical Group has the capacity to serve a vast majority of Third Army's needs but not unlike McPherson, we can expect that some Third Army personnel and eligible Family members may be outsourced to the local TRICARE network. For those that are interested and would like to check primary care manager availability for the Shaw and Sumter, S.C., area, go on-line to the TRICARE website at, <http://www.humana-military.com/south/bene/tools-resources/BeneSiteProvLoc.asp>.

Shaw and the 20th Medical Group provides an assortment of medical and dental services which includes family practice, aerospace medicine, pediatric care, limited gynecological services, immunizations, general and oral surgery, general dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, physical therapy, optometry, life skills, substance abuse counseling, family advocacy services, radiological services, laboratory services and pharmacology services. Other services not available through the 20th

Medical Group will be provided through the TRICARE network. Shaw does provide basic dental services to armed forces servicemembers; however, eligible Family members will be outsourced within the local area through the TRICARE dental program.

There is a TRICARE service center located at Shaw with services provided that are equivalent to those offered at McPherson.

Once McPherson closes its doors September 2011, the Fort McPherson TRICARE service office will relocate to another location in the Atlanta metro area. They will continue to service the needs of our servicemembers and retiree population that remain in the Atlanta area.

As the Base Realignment and Closure process moves forward, the Third Army Surgeon's office will continue to provide oversight to the ongoing discussions to further ensure that the transition of healthcare services is a seamless one. As topics of public interest arise, we will do our best to ensure to keep all Third Army servicemembers and Families informed with all the latest information. For specific questions or concerns you can E-mail me at, jeffery.mosso@arcent.army.mil.